

STARKVILLE, April 2, 1850.

Mr. Editor:—I happened to be present at a meeting of the people of Oktibbeha, on Monday last. It was a large and respectable one, and a more attentive audience I never witnessed. Mr. W. L. Harris being in attendance upon the Probate Court, then in special session, was called on for a speech, and responded in a manner that delighted the friends of the South, and carried dismay to the submissionists.

I believe, sir, I never heard that gentleman, acknowledged as he is for ability, make a more felicitous, effective and able speech. Indeed, it seemed to me that his positions and arguments were unanswerable. The repeated bursts of applause as he progressed, attested the delight and satisfaction of his auditory. And what is remarkable in crowds of this kind, there were but two men that left during the discussion, and they returned before it was over.

Would that the South had others such as he, who forgetting party in the advocacy of the interests of the South, boldly step forward, without reference to the future as to personal preferment. Then would we be entirely united, then would the South be righted and the Union preserved.

I cannot hope to give a even fair synopsis of his able speech, but the following are some of the positions he maintained:

After expressing his gratification which an accidental visit on professional business afforded him of meeting face to face his old and valued personal friends of the county of Oktibbeha, Mr. Harris stated to the audience that he appeared before them with no new opinions; that he occupied the same position which he had heretofore occupied; that those present who had honored him by their presence in the two last political campaigns, in 1843 and 1849, and who were now present, would recognize the same principles enforced by the same illustrations, and often the very language used by him on the same subject then, when he had the honor to represent, as a candidate, his whig friends of this district on two successive occasions. He had then insisted on the equal right of Mississippi to equal protection for all her property in the new Territories, which was extended by Government to other States of this Union. He had then denounced the doctrine of non-intervention as equivalent to the Wilmot proviso, and insisted that the Congress was bound to protect our property in the new Territories against the abolition fanatics and felons, who would harbor, steal or conceal it. Yet it had no power to destroy that property. The business of Government, said he, is to protect, not to destroy. That he should not now be found in the ranks of General Cass and General Foote, with some of his whig friends, advocating what he has opposed with the whig party for three years past, ought not to be matter of surprise to them, or to those who knew him.

He was not a candidate for office. He had neither motive or desire to swap his principles for a popular name. He sought truth alone, and he cared not whither it led, or who or how few might accompany him in the pursuit—trusting his destiny to the God of truth and the Ruler of nations, he would maintain his position. He did not intend to be driven or persuaded from opinions long held, and still honestly entertained, either by the threats or flattery of worthless demagogues. They first essayed to slander him out of his position, in the face of repeated written and published avowals; and made every neighborhood and street politician in their employ to spread it far and wide that he was a secessionist—a disunionist—ready to resort to desperate remedies for present grievances, and more especially as a measure of resistance to the compromise robbery.

He denounced the infamous slanders and their authors in no measured terms. He then said, finding their slanders recoiling on themselves, by their late speeches, they have shifted their position. They have now grown kind—they admit that he is not for secession or revolution, or any violent resistance to past grievances, but object to his position, in opposition to the compromise and in favor of constitutional State action raising our revenue from those who injure us, and taking the tax off of our own citizens—encouraging our own mechanics, laborers and farmers, instead of the Northern abolitionist—by saying that as a remedy it is not strong enough; that is a harmless sort of thing, however, to which they have but little objection, &c., &c., while they still cry that the only question is between Union and Disunion, and they have the right side of that question.

Mr. Harris declared that no such issue existed, or could be made. The only issue is between low and vulgar submission to admitted wrong and outrage in the late compromise measures, as a final settlement for all time to come of the slavery question, and open, manly denunciation of those measures, and peaceable, constitutional, legal resistance by State non-intercourse with those States who persist in denying to Mississippi protection for her property in the new Territories, against the lawless abolitionist who may harbor or conceal our slaves when resident there.

Mr. Harris then stated his recognition of the doctrine of secession as an original, natural right, not parted with, but reserved by the compact of union to each State. He regarded its attempted exercise by our State, alone and without expected assistance from her sister States, as worse than folly, for any cause; and declared that for present grievances he discarded it as a remedy.

He alluded to those who advocated it. While he censured their rashness and imprudence, he commended their patriotism, devotion to their gallant little State, out of which it originated. He commended them to the care and kindness of the people of this State—theirs is the right spirit—while they should be restrained, and their zeal repressed by the firmness and prudence of their fellow-citizens, they should not be denounced as traitors, &c.

Mr. Harris then adverted to the rise and progress of Northern aggression upon Southern rights and institutions, and their continual efforts, not only to destroy our institutions, but to degrade our standing and moral character over the civilized world. He commenced with the early history of our Government. This crusade against slavery had its demonic origin in the formation of the articles of Confederation. The proposition was made to tax the property of the South in slaves, while the property of the North was to be exempted from taxation, and while each State was to have but one vote. In this they failed, the tax being fixed upon land granted and surveyed, including improvements.

He swiftly reviewed the conduct of the North in relation to the Northwestern Territory, in excluding slavery, without the "least color of constitutional authority," as declared by Mr. Madison, from that vast domain, by the ordinance of 1787. He compared the conduct of Virginia and the South, with the late conduct of the North in relation to California and New Mexico. He showed that when we emerged from the revolutionary struggle the Northern States had only about 164,000 square miles of territory, while the Southern States possessed over 600,000 square miles, derived from charters and grants from the British crown. That Virginia alone claimed a territory extending four hundred miles in width from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. That after the formation of the articles of Confederation, some of the States claimed that Virginia ought not to appropriate to herself such a vast territory, the title to which had been secured by the "common blood and treasure" of all the States against a common enemy, and that the said territory ought to be regarded as a common fund—first, to pay the expenses of the war, and afterwards for the common benefit of all the States. And some of the States actually refused to come into the Union, unless this arrangement was agreed to. Virginia, a Southern State, magnanimously donated her territory as desired to Congress, as a trustee for all the States. She did not appropriate it to her own use. She did not rob her sister States of all interest in the common acquisition, although she had the legal title. She did not, like the North, in the case of the late acquisition of New Mexico and California, without the least color of constitutional right, deprive her sister States of an equal participation in the benefit of her territory, but she generously divided her inheritance with her sister States, in the spirit of true sisterhood.

He then took up the ordinance of 1787, by which slavery was prohibited in the said territory, and the South thereby excluded. He showed the violations of the ordinance itself, as well as the deeds of cession by Congress, in total disregard of the rights of the Southern States, and of their own pledges and compromises.

He next took up the compromises and guarantees of the Constitution, intended to protect and secure the South in the enjoyment of slave property. He showed that after agreeing that taxation and representation should go together, and that we should be taxed and represented for three-fifths of our slaves, while the North were represented in full for their free negroes—whereby we have but fourteen representatives in Congress. They resorted to the impost system of direct taxation, by which the South have been compelled to pay much the greater portion of the public revenue, and the proportion of taxation corresponding with representation entirely disregarded.

They promised "to suppress insurrections." Instead of this, for more than thirty years there has been a steady and systematic effort on their part, by societies and meetings—from the pulpit, in their school and other books, by petitions to Congress, by their discussions in Congress hall, by emissaries sent among us to incite our slaves to disobedience and insurrection, and so to disturb their quiet and tranquil existence, as to endanger our homes, and thereby destroy the value of our property.

See the 2nd sec. of the 4th art. of the Constitution they promised to deliver up fugitive slaves on claim of the owner. He showed that they have not only omitted this positive duty, but that five States have actually passed laws, at different times, intended to obstruct the delivery of fugitive slaves.

He showed that after the acquisition of Louisiana in 1803, for \$15,000,000, they attempted to prevent Missouri from coming into the Union in 1819-20, unless she would consent to come in as an anti-slavery State; that out of this struggle, a fierce and dangerous one, grew the Missouri compromise, which the South has faithfully observed, while the North has repeatedly attempted to violate.

He reviewed the injustice of the resolutions annexing Texas, whereby the South was excluded from the territory north of 36°30', while south of that line is left open for free-soil operations.

He reviewed the Oregon controversy, and showed that they refused to recognize the Missouri compromise in that Territory.

He showed that thirteen States had, by deliberate resolutions, instructed their Senators and Representatives to support the Wilmot proviso.

Mr. Harris then came to the late acquisition and the compromise bills. He called upon any person present to date whence the least benefit or advantage was secured to the State of Mississippi. He offered to yield the stand to any one who would point it out—(no one coming forward,) he stated that he had examined the compromise measures with all the care he was capable of, and he was unable to discover the first benefit secured by it to the entire South. That to secure the passage of the late bill for the recovery of fugitive slaves, (a duty imposed upon Congress by the express words of the Constitution itself,) a bill which concerns only the four border States, we had been requested to give up our right to sell our negroes in the District of Columbia, and to abandon all claim to carry our slaves into the new territory. That by the compromise bills we have been excluded, virtually, from the immense empire which our "blood and treasure" has more than equally contributed to acquire.

He then showed that without laws passed by Congress, or under its direction, to punish those who may harbor or steal our slaves when we should move to the new Territories, we should be without protection; that Congress refused positively to pass such laws, for the purpose of preventing slavery from going there; that the Northern members of Congress, with Mr. Clay and some Southern men, held the opinion that the Mexican laws abolishing slavery are now in force there, and that Congress even refused to repeal those laws. He dwelt at much length on the exclusion of our people by the action of Congress in the passage of these compromise measures, from their equal right and just share in the disposition of the common property, acquired by a common effort over a public enemy.

GEORGIA.—The statement of the progress of the population of Georgia which has been going the rounds of the papers is incorrect. We have the full census returns before us. They show the population to be, whites 527,287; slaves 380,610. In 1840, it was, whites 456,695; slaves 243,697. The increase of the whites, 80,592; of the slaves, 136,913. The per cent. increase is about 32 per cent.

THE CURB PROSECUTIONS.—We some days since announced the fact that the case which has been on trial so long in New Orleans, between the United States vs. Gen. Henderson, has been at length dismissed, the jury not being able to agree, eleven, on the trial, being for acquittal, and one for conviction. *Nolle prosequi* were then moved by the Attorney General in all the other cases, viz: General Quitman, General Lopez, &c. It will be remembered that the Government had already made one mistrial in the case of Gen. Henderson before Gov. Quitman was arrested: they could not have failed to contemplate the strong probability of the very result which has taken place, and of their own course in that event. Why, then, if the prosecution of all the other trials was made to rest on the success of that of Gen. Henderson, was Governor Quitman harassed and dragged and forced to New Orleans before the termination of that trial? It will not be forgotten, that Gov. Quitman offered any amount of bail to appear at New Orleans after his term of office should have expired, (next November.) One hundred thousand dollars would have been given, if demanded. But no! this would not suit the fastidious, law-loving President Fillmore, (who has the law enacted in Mississippi, but not in Massachusetts,) and Gov. Quitman must be arrested and carried off to New Orleans, to be held to bail in the enormous sum of \$1000, just to await the termination of the trial of Gen. Henderson, and upon its failure to be discharged! There never has occurred a case so outrageous in all its bearings and proceedings since the foundation of the government. There is nothing so odious under the monstrosities of the Alien and Sedition Acts, not even in the cases for which Judge Chase was tried upon an impeachment. There is nothing in the whole range of the prosecutions of the British Government, from the days of Robert Emmet to the present time, which partakes more of an utter disregard of the liberty and convenience of the citizens of down-trodden Ireland, or of the rights and honor of that oppressed country itself, than has been exhibited in the case of Gov. Quitman and the State of Mississippi.

THE following advertisement makes its appearance in the Scottish Press, which we understand is one of the most respectable papers of Edinburgh. Verily the people of Edinburgh must have very little use for their shillings:

Anti-Slavery Soiree.
W. M. BROWN and W. & ELLEN CRAFT, Fugitive Slaves will be entertained at a Soiree, at QUEEN STREET HALL, on Monday Evening, the 17th instant, at 7 o'clock.

J. H. STOTT, Esq., in the Chair.
W. Wells Brown will detail his scheme of establishing Schools for the education of Fugitive Slave in Canada. Wm. Craft will give some interesting particulars of his experience of slavery. W. Wells Brown and W. Craft will recite some Anti-slavery Melodies.

Dr. Gunn,
Rev. J. R. Campbell,
James Edwards,
Dr. Pennington,
Councillor Dick,
And other gentlemen will address the meeting.
Tickets one Shilling each.
Edinburgh, 12th February, 1851.

It is stated that the Rev. Wm. Warren, the orthodox clergyman of Upton, Mass., was requested a few days since, to sign a petition to Congress for the repeal of the fugitive-slave law. He took the document, remarking—"I shall probably be considered pro-slavery if I do not," and wrote upon it as follows: "Wm. Warren, if all can be done in good faith to the Constitution." The next person called upon to sign it, wrote:—"H. D. Johnson, 'if all can be done in good faith with the Constitution,' for I wish to serve God so as not to offend the Devil." This is considered very artful dodge by the Boston Commonwealth.

OHIO.—The House of Representatives of this State, on the 12th instant, passed the following resolutions relative to the fugitive-slave law, by a vote of 40 to 20.

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That our Senators in Congress be instructed and our Representatives requested, to use all honorable means to obtain an immediate repeal, modification or amendment of the act of Congress, usually styled the fugitive-slave law, approved September 18, 1850.

Resolved, That the Governor of the State of Ohio be requested to forward each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, a copy of the above resolution.

POSITION OF MISSISSIPPI.—In a late debate in the Senate, Jeff. Davis thus defined the position of Mississippi upon the question of the Union of the States:

"Who ever said Mississippi desired to dissolve the Union? In Mississippi it has been spoken of but as an alternative, a last recourse, and a remedy to which they would resort only when they were bound as freemen to surrender their inheritance, or adopt the last argument in order to maintain their constitutional rights. That they have said, and that I believe they will do. You could not throughout the length and breadth of the State, find a corporal's guard who desire to destroy the Union of the constitution—the Union as it was formed by the Union as transmitted from their revolutionary sires. They speak of dissolution as the result of a violation of constitutional rights, and this only—of secession as the alternative of submission to usurpation and degrading aggression."

The correspondent of the Laurensville Herald thus notices the late showing up of that renegade and blackguard, Sam. Houston:

"Mr. Rhett and Judge Butler have done one good thing. A day or two ago they secured one Democratic Presidential aspirant of the city of Gen. Sam. Houston. Mr. Rhett charged him with falsehood, in six different points, in his recent attack on South Carolina institutions. Houston absolutely paled beneath the bearing of our gallant Senator, and when Judge Butler rose he manifested a trepidation that has lost him the confidence of many devoted friends in the Senate. There was some danger that Houston might create divisions in the Democratic camp by his aspirations, but there is none now. Rhett and Butler have utterly demolished the hero of San Jacinto. He fled next day ingloriously from his post. The thing has created more comment than any occurrence since the deprivation of the slaves States of their equal share in the recently acquired territory."

THE CHEVASSE.—The Vicksburg Whig, of the 14th, says:

"The levee at Sellers' on the Mississippi side of the river, has given way, and the water is rushing through in a very large volume, affecting a large portion of the lands in Issaquena. The cut-off that was making at Terrapin Neck, has been checked for the present. One mile and a half of the Levee at the famous Point Look Out plantation has given way, and no hope is entertained, or exertion made, to check the torrent which rushes through. This break will overflow entirely many of the plantations in Madison Parish, La., and more or less affect the balance of the Parish."

"THE MASKED BATTERY."—Keep it before the People, that (in the language of the Hon. Robert Toombs, whig member of Congress from Georgia) the "cry of Union is the masked battery from behind which the Constitution and the rights of the South are to be assailed."

During the month of February nearly ten thousand immigrants arrived at the port of New York; much the largest portion of whom were from Ireland.

Here is an item from that very staunch Southern paper, the Nashville American, that is worth preservation for the truth which it tells. It is a simple, literal, cold fact, that the persecution against Quitman was pushed for political considerations, and not that it was believed that the law had been set at defiance in his action.

THE WORKS OF THE SUB-MARINE TELEGRAPH BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE HAVE BEEN COMMENCED.

THE BLIND BOY.
BY REV. DR. HAWES.

It was a blessed summer day.
The flowers bloomed, the air was mild,
The little birds poured forth their lay,
And everything in nature smiled.

In pleasant thought I wandered on
Beneath the deep woods' simple shade,
Till suddenly I came upon
Two children that had hither strayed.

Just at an aged birch-tree's foot
A little girl and boy reclined,
His hand in hers she kindly put,
And then I saw the boy was blind!

"Dear Mary," said the poor blind boy,
"That little bird sings very long.
Say, do you see him in his joy?
And he is pretty as his song!"

"Yes, Edward," replied the maid,
"I see him on yonder tree!"
The poor boy sighed and gently said,
"Sister, I wish that I could see."

"The flowers, you say, are very fair,
And bright green leaves are on the trees,
And pretty birds are singing there.
How beautiful for one who sees!"

"Yet I the fragrant flower can smell,
And I can feel the green leaf's shade,
And I can hear the notes that swell
From these dear birds that God has made."

So, Sister, God is kind to me,
Though sight, alas! he has not given;
But tell me, are there any blind
Among the children up in Heaven?"

"No, dearest Edward, these all see!
But the blind are made to see—ask God!"
"Oh! Mary, he's good to me,
I thought I'd like to look at God."

Ere long disease his hand had laid
On the dear boy so meek and mild;
His wisdom meant, and gave him aid,
That God would spare her sightless child.

He felt the warm tears on his face,
And said, "Oh, never weep for me,
I'm going to a bright, bright place,
Where, Mary says, I God shall see."

"And you'll come there, dear Mary, too,
And mother, when you get up there,
Tell Edward, mother, that 'tis you—
You know I never saw you here."

He spoke no more, but gently smiled,
And the blind flow was given,
When God took up that poor blind child,
And opened first his eyes in Heaven.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR.
The Comic Grammar says:
But remember, though box
In the plural makes boxes,
The plural of ox
Should be oxen not oxes.

To which an exchange paper adds:
And remember, though fleece
In the plural is fleeces,
That the plural of ox
Isn't oxes nor oxen.

We may also be permitted to add:
And remember, though house
In the plural is houses
The plural of mouse
Should be mouses not mouses.

All of which goes to prove
That grammar a farce is;
For where is the plural
Of rum and of lawes? (New York Gazette.)

The plural—Gazette—
Of rum, don't us trouble;
Take one glass too much
And you'll be sure to see double.

A singular sight,
To see double must be;
"Wm. Warren, if all can be done in good faith to the Constitution." The next person called upon to sign it, wrote:—"H. D. Johnson, 'if all can be done in good faith with the Constitution,' for I wish to serve God so as not to offend the Devil." This is considered very artful dodge by the Boston Commonwealth.

THE POOR MAN TO HIS SON.
BY ELIZA COOK.

Work, work, my boy, be not afraid,
Look labor boldly in the face,
Take up the hammer or the spade,
And blithely set for your humble place.

Hold up your brow in honest pride,
The rough and sweaty hands may be,
Such hands are sap veins that provide
The life-blood of the nation's tree.

There's honor in the toiling hand,
That tills the soil in honest toil;
It stamps a crest upon the heart
Worth more than all your quartered shield.

Work, work, my boy, and murmur not,
The fustian garb betrays no shame;
The crime of longed-for leisure is blot
And labor glides the noblest name.

And man is never half so blest
As when the busy day is spent,
So to make his evening rest
A holiday of glad content.

God grant thee but a due regard,
A guerdon portion fair and just,
And then never think thy station hard,
But work, my boy, with hope, and trust!

THE SHIP OF DEATH.
By the shore of time, now lying
On the rocky flood beneath,
Patiently, thou stand unyielding,
Waiting for thee the ship of DEATH!

He who on that vessel strith,
Sailing from the sons of men—
To the friends from whom he parteth,
Never more returns again!

From her mast no flag is flying,
To denote from whence she came;
She is known unto the dying—
Never more to the living name.

Not a word was ever spoken
On the dark unlighted sea;
Silence there is no broken,
She herself seems not to be!

Silent thou, in darkness lonely,
Then the soul put forth alone,
While the wings of Angels only
Wait for her to a LAND UNKNOWN!

CONSOLATION—AN EPIGRAM.
A prim city girl,
With a frown, and a curl
Of her lip that proclaimed her a scoldier,
Was once on a point
That John—a mechanic—
Had affronted her pride with an 'offer.'

The Legislature of Iowa, has passed a law prohibiting the emigration of negroes, and requiring them to leave the State upon three days notice of the law, under certain penalties. This is another illustration of the sincere love which the abolitionists have for the poor blacks!

The works of the sub-marine telegraph between England and France have been commenced.

THE BLIND BOY.
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The flowers bloomed, the air was mild,
The little birds poured forth their lay,
And everything in nature smiled.

In pleasant thought I wandered on
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Had affronted her pride with an 'offer.'

struction in any college class they may be prepared to enter, provided their parents respectively are in indigent circumstances, or are not amply able to bear the requisite expense at the usual rates.

6th. Young ladies admitted upon scholarship, are exempt from the payment of tuition fees; but not for room rent or other expenses. They are subject to college rules as other students, and when legally expelled their right of scholarship becomes forfeited, and except in permanent and charity scholarships no substitute for the offending individual is admitted.

7th. The right of instruction secured by scholarships extends only to the college classes proper, and not to the class or classes assigned to the preparatory department.

Form of the certificate for permanent scholarships to be varied to suit other cases.

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,
County, _____
Baptist Female College, Pontotoc.

Be it known to all whom it may concern, that Miss _____ the requisite fees having been duly paid, is entitled to receive instruction in any class in the above named college, which she may be prepared to enter. The right herein granted begins from this date, and inures to the benefit of her and her legal transferees in perpetuity—according to the intent and meaning of the 1st, 6th and 7th articles of said college, on the subject of scholarships. Witness my hand and seal this _____ day of _____ A. D. 18 _____

[L. S.]
Agent.

FAMILY CERTIFICATE.
Baptist Female College, Pontotoc, Miss.

Be it known to all whom it may concern, That (Mrs. or Mr.) _____ having paid the fees required, therefore, any, or all of (his or her) daughters or step-daughters, are entitled to receive instruction in any class in the above college, which they may be prepared to enter. The rights and privileges herein granted begins from this date, and exist according to the intent and meaning of the 2d, 6th and 7th articles of the regulations of said institution on the subject of scholarship. Witness my hand and seal the _____ day of _____ A. D. 18 _____

[L. S.]
Agent.

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATE.
Baptist Female College, Pontotoc, Miss.

To all whom it may concern, Be it known that Miss _____ the requisite fees having been paid, is entitled to receive instruction in any class in the above college that she may be prepared to enter. This right begins from this date, and continues according to the intent and meaning of the 3rd, 6th and 7th articles of the regulations of said institution upon the subject of scholarship. Witness my hand and seal this _____ day of _____ A. D. 18 _____

[L. S.]
Agent.

CHARITY CERTIFICATE.
Baptist Female College, Pontotoc, Miss.